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A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 1.

BOSTON, MASS., MAY 15, 1898.

NO. 11.

A FEW HENS

13 PUBLISHED MONTHLY, and devoted to every branch of MARKET POULTRY CULTURE. Its field is in the suburbs of cities, large towns, villages, and on the farms of all America. It contains

Brief Hints for Busy People.

Those who have not time to read and experiment upon theories, but who want to get helpful, practical suggestions, which may be put into practice daily.

A FEW HENS is a "boiled down" journal. It is not padded—saying, in as few words as possible, what is necessary—giving the cream and not the skim-milk of practical poultry information.

MUCH IN LITTLE.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hammondon, N. J.
To whom all exchanges and communications for publication should be addressed.

The editor is actively engaged in making poultry experiments, and in this journal alone, he will publish from time to time the result of his work.

Subscriptions, advertisements, and all business matters must be sent to publication office at Boston.

A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL HINTS.

Hot suns.

Be your own boss.

Feed, weed, breed.

Self done is soon done.

Don't build air castles.

Slow help is poor help.

Persevere and prosper.

"Most haste, least speed."

Start well and learn well.

Work out your own salvation.

Let your orders be imperative.

"Great talkers are little doers."

Have special days for special work.

Deacon Slowgo believes in mongrels.

Steady work lays the best foundation.

Have you ever been to a poultry show?

"Big crops come by work, not by talk."

May hatched chicks make good breeders.

Early and late are the poultryman's hours.

Fanny Field believes in *encouraging* the hens.

"The only cheap experience is that of others."

Good luck is not acquainted with a lazy poultryman.

Because others failed is no reason why you should.

Good stock and a good breed make a profitable combination.

"Better a fair certainty of a good living than a chance of getting rich." That's market poultry for you.

Experimental Farm Notes.

Planting Fruit Trees—Furnishing Shade—Leghorn Pullets as Mothers—Delayed Hatches—Strong Fertility—Covers for the Chick Runs—Eggs Received—The Champion Brooder and the Granite State Feed Cooker.

We have been doing some tree planting on the farm since last issue. It is our intention to literally cover the chick and duck runs with shade from fruit trees. When we moved here there were about nineteen trees (apple, pear and cherry) on the place. Last year we planted 25 Satsuma, Ogon and Abundance plum trees, and this year planted 25 Abundance and 5 Wild Goose plum, 10 Lawrence and 10 Bartlett pear, 9 Early Crawford and 7 Late Crawford peach trees, making 110 fruit trees in all. Another season we expect to duplicate the number of trees. Fruit and poultry make a good combination and will help to make our two acre experiment all the more successful.

Along a board fence we planted last year black, white and red currants, and they grew wonderfully well—we expect a small crop this year from them.

On the rear of the place, last year we laid out a strawberry bed, using 1100 plants. Unless all signs fail, we will have a big crop this spring, probably before the issue of this paper is out. Here and there, wherever a patch of land a few yards square could be spared, we covered well with duck manure and dirt from the duck yard, and are planting onions, lettuce and radishes, a few beans, peas, etc., and will, later on, put out a lot of banana cantaloupe seed and probably some watermelons.

We are also going to try a novel plan for furnishing shade in the further end of the runs. Last year we hung burlap on the fences to throw shade in the yards, but this year we will adopt a system that will give us profit as well as comfort to the stock. A section of each run will be divided off with wire fencing, and in this section we will plant sweet corn. After the corn is almost ripe we will remove the fencing and this will be a shady nook for the chickens and ducks to get under during the heat of the day. It seems to us that the plan must work well—at least we will give it a good trial.

Three of our Leghorn pullets became broody this spring, which we set. One of them brought out a big hatch, and a prouder mother one could not wish to see. It is quite a sight to see this little mother with her big family—she had 15 eggs, all fertile, and hatched 15 young.

The changeable weather this spring certainly delayed hatches. Nearly every hatch was a few days late, but the chicks, nevertheless, came out strong. Cold nights will prolong a hatch.

The fertility of our Brahma, Wyandotte and Leghorn eggs were remarkably strong, and of all the sales of eggs for hatching we did not have one complaint. We believe that this fertility was due to two things: First, the size of our flocks; second, the exercise the fowls took. Heretofore we mated Brahmas, 9 females to one male; Wyandottes, 11 females to one male; Leghorns, 14 females to one male. This year we tried a larger mating, making Brahmas 15 females to one male; Wyandottes, 15 females to one male; Leghorns, 30 females to one male. Our fertility has been 90 per cent. But in order to keep such large flocks in good condition, we littered the scratching shed and part of the outside run. In among this litter twice a day (noon and night) we scattered the whole grain. It was a case of scratch or go hungry—and they scratched.

Here is our theory: A vigorous male bird will be continually forcing his attention on those hens, which loses the power of fertilization; while, on the other hand, where there is a large flock, the female will invite the attention of the male, being in a better state to receive him.

We are making covers for our chick runs which will not only benefit the chicks but save us considerable labor. Last year whenever a storm came up, we were compelled to chase our little chicks in their houses. During the hot summer we had to lay burlap over the runs to make shade—but it would not shed rain. We cover the top and half way down the sides. No matter how hard it may rain, or how hot the sun is, our chicks are now safe, and they certainly appreciate this comfort.

The White Wyandotte eggs sent us by W. H. Child, Glenside, Pa., gave a very good hatch, and the chicks are of good size, vigorous, growing like weeds. This speaks well for Mr. Child's stock.

We also received a sitting of White Wyandotte eggs and one of Single Comb White Leghorn, from Geo. R. Hyde, proprietor of the Appleton Poultry Yards, Appleton, Niagara County, New York, which are now under hens. The White Wyandotte eggs are of a uniform chocolate color and the largest eggs of that breed we have yet seen.

The Champion Brooder, manufactured by J. A. Bennett & Son, Gouverneur, N. Y., is giving the very best satisfaction, and after a fair trial we can safely recommend it. At five dollars it is the cheapest of good brooders on the market.

* * *

The Granite State Feed Cooker and water heater, which we secured some time ago from the Granite State Evaporator Co., 500 Temple Court, New York city, and which we briefly described in our February issue, is doing excellent work. It is one of the best, if not the best boiler we have yet seen, and is as useful on our farm as our incubators.

It is hardly necessary for us to call attention to the value of cooking food for stock. We use it considerably for cooking clover hay, which we cover with water. A fire is started in the furnace, and in a comparatively short time the air is filled with the odor of new mown hay. Such a scent in winter is quite pleasing. When ready for use, the clover and the tea are taken out and the boiler is filled with water and brought to a boiling point, for such use as washing troughs, drinking vessels, etc. There is almost constant use of it from morning until night.

We have always advocated keeping several hogs on the poultry farm to eat up the waste feed. Every now and then a pen of fowls or a pen of ducks will get off their feed. We clean out every trough after the fowls are through eating and generally find enough for the next meal of the hogs. Once a year we have a butchering, and then is when we find the boiler of untold value—heating water, cooking meat, etc.

In short, we find the Granite Cooker gives a large amount of heat for a very little fuel; it is remarkable how quickly the water heats, there being no waste in any way. In this it is far ahead of a cauldron or set kettle. No poultry farm is complete without one of these cookers, and we recommend it—as we do all useful articles that we have tried and found as represented. Further particulars will be given by addressing the company as above.

* * *

Our description of our new feed and cook house is crowded out of this issue, but will be given in full in our next.

Eggs and Egg Farming.

Some Facts and Figures—Better Eggs Wanted—Selling Eggs From Pedigreed Stock.

- Establish a home market.
- Non-sitters lay white eggs.
- The Ancous are heavy layers.
- Double-yolked eggs mean a loss.
- The heavy layers produce white eggs.
- Uniformity in size is better than color.
- The best winter layers give brown eggs.
- Feeding fish taints the flavor of the eggs.
- Too much middlings in feed makes small eggs.
- The happy hen is generally the profitable one.
- "White Leghorn eggs" sell best in New York markets.
- Neglecting the hens because eggs are cheap is a poor policy.
- The size of the egg gradually increases with the age of the hen.
- Don't store away eggs because the prices are low. It is dishonest.
- The scratching shed has made winter egg production more profitable.
- Out of 1,300,183 dozen eggs exported last year, says *Rural New-Yorker*, 953,593 dozens were sent to Cuba.
- The *Poultry Farmer* thinks we should have strains that produce eggs weighing about an eighth of a pound each.

The home of the White Leghorn seems to be in the vicinity of Groton, N. Y. Egg raising is a specialty in that section.

The *Poultry Farmer* wants a new breed; one that will lay as many eggs as the Leghorn, and those eggs dark brown and of a size larger.

Hartnest Farm, Framingham, Mass., have forwarded us samples of their pedigree blanks which they send filled out with each order for eggs or stock. The blank for eggs tells the number sent; number of pullet that laid them; weight and score of cockerel to which pullet is mated; when the pullet was hatched; weight of pullet; when she began laying; number of eggs laid to date; average weight of each egg; score of pullet; egg record and weight of pullet's dam; weight of pullet's sire; egg record and weight of cockerel's dam; weight of cockerel's sire. In pedigree of stock, the number of bird is given; when hatched; when began laying; number of eggs laid to date; score; weight; egg record and weight of dam; average weight per egg. That's certainly business poultry.

I. K. Felch writes A FEW HENS that, as records seem fashionable, and as in the April issue we stated that 22 1-2 ounces may be taken as a fair weight for 12 hen eggs, he submits the following results for March: 13 Plymouth Rocks laid 276 eggs, 21 3-5 average per hen; 15 Plymouth Rocks, 334 eggs, average 22 4-15; 40 Plymouth Rocks, 864 eggs, average 21 7-20; Weight of the eggs, 26 ounces per dozen. Brahmas, 11 pullets, three of which were hatched August 3, 185 eggs, average 16 9-11; 10 Brahmas, 195 eggs, average 19 1-2. Weight of eggs, 32 ounces per dozen. 7 1-2 and 6 1-2 ounces for a single egg has been known to be produced. He has four hens that are producing eggs to weigh 37 ounces per dozen. "Our White Wyandottes," continues Mr. Felch, "while we neglected to have the number kept track of, we are inclined to think layed the best, but the weight, per dozen, was but 25 ounces. These weights are not the largest, but just as they are laid. We find, when selecting to ship, when shape, color and firmness of shell is considered, as we ship them for breeding purposes they do not vary one ounce from these average weights, except as in the case of the four hens alluded to. The whole pen of hens average 33 ounces to the dozen. You see, the number a hen lays is only half the record; weight is the true test as a food supply. Twenty eggs at 32 ounces per dozen being 3 lbs., 5 1-2 ounces; 22 eggs at 26 ounces per dozen being 2 lbs., 11 2-3 ounces. The Brahmas, though they lay the least in number, lay 21 1-3 per cent the greater amount of food supply."

Ducks and Ducklings.

The Valuable Experience of the Weber Bros.—How to Make a Start—Feed for Young—Fattening for Market—Food for Laying Stock—Indian Runner Ducks.

- Pekin ducks are no wanderers.
- The usual weight of the Indian Runner ducks is four pounds.
- Weber Bros. bed with saw dust in summer and fall; meadow hay in winter.
- Extra large eggs, ill-shaped and porous shelled ones, do not as a rule hatch.
- Weber believes in having the best for breeding, it being folly to breed small, undersized birds.
- Sand or gravel land, with a slope sufficient to give good drainage, is best for duck culture.
- Weber Bros. allow about eight square feet for each bird, say 40 ducks to a pen 24 x 15 feet.
- Sewall says the Indian Runner duck does not do well in confinement. They want a large free range.
- Weber Bros. carefully wash the eggs before hatching, and use only perfectly formed eggs of normal size.
- J. W. Butler, in *Nebraska State Poultry Journal*, says Indian Runner ducks bear confinement about as well as Plymouth Rocks.
- F. L. Sewell, in *Orange Judd Farmer*, says the Indian Runner duck is full grown and ready for the table at 7 or 8 weeks of age.
- James Rankin, in *Farm-Poultry*, says he never cooks the food for ducks after they are a week old, but mixes it up with cold water.

James Rankin says too often the health of the young bird is injured by the improper feeding of the mother bird during the laying season.

T. Farrar Rackham, in writing of the Indian Runner ducks says they are wonderful egg producers, great foragers, hardy and delicious eating.

Mrs. J. R. B., Indiana, writes that she finds that medium sized eggs, shells entirely free from any lime sticking on outside, gives best results in hatching.

Weber Bros., of Wrentham, Mass., began business ten years ago with twelve ducks, and during the past season sold 21,000 ducklings in the Boston and New York markets.

At seven weeks of age, the ducklings should be fattened for market and fed only three times a day. Weber Bros. feed 3-4 meal, 1-4 flour, 15 per cent beef scraps, and all the green food they can eat once a day.

To illustrate how heavy a loss one could endure without failure, says John Weber, if one-half of the eggs put in the incubator only hatched and only one-half of those hatched lived, there would still be enough in it to encourage one to stick to the business without taking into account the fertilizing value of the vanquished host.

Weber Bros. give hard-boiled egg bread crumbs as the first meal to their young ducks. When they have learned to eat they are fed on bread crumbs and rolled oats the next four days. After that they get the regular food of cornmeal, shorts, flour and beef scraps. They are fed five times a day until four weeks old, then four times.

John Weber, in an address before the *Ploughman Farmers' Meeting*, Boston, said if one already owns a farm, \$1,000 capital would give a good start in the business. Such an amount would be sufficient to cover all expenses. Two incubators, a flock of about thirty ducks, a house for the breeders, a brooding house and heater, feed boards and water fountains, wire fencing, etc. Such a plant would keep one man busy, and the future growth of his plant could be built on the profits.

The Weber Bros. feed the laying ducks during the breeding season, equal parts of cornmeal, wheat bran, ground oats and flour. Ten per cent of beef scraps is added, and thirty per cent of boiled turnips and cut clover. They are given all they can eat night and morning. At noon they are given about a quart of whole corn to a pen. They seem to be very fond of this grain and begin calling for it with all their might long before noon. It is scattered up and down each yard, and the ducks scramble for it with their usual grace. A Pekin duck in a hurry is a comical sight.

35 Thoroughbred B. P. Rock Cockerels for sale at \$1.50 each. B. P. R. Eggs, \$1 per 13. Buff Cochins, Partridge Cochins, and Light Brahma eggs, \$2.00 per 13. Dr. H. Somerville, Chester Springs, Pa.

EGGS FOR HATCHING. Our strain of Buff Leghorns have won prizes in England and America's greatest shows. Prolific layers. \$2.00 per 13. C. W. FRANKLIN, Norwich, N. Y.

Poultry Supplies

Of all kinds. Waste Bread, Cut Clover, Pure Beef Scraps, Fancy Ground Oyster Shells. All kinds of Grit, and Agents for Smith & Romaine's B. B. B. Estimates given on special lots of feed.

FRED. G. ORR & CO.,

Nos. 5 and 6 Commercial Wharf, Boston, Mass.

OUR WARRANT

calls for the hatching of 80 per cent. of the fresh fertile eggs that are placed in our

RELIABLE INCUBATOR

when the instructions are followed as laid down. You will understand how it is possible for us to make such an unparalleled guarantee, when you read our Poultry Guide and Combined Incubator and Brooder Catalogue. A book that contains an immense amount of poultry lore, and of great value to every poultry fancier. Sent for 10c.

Reliable Incubator & Brooder Co., QUINCY, ILLINOIS.



About Broilers and Roasters.

Leghorns, Brahmas and Wyandottes for Broilers
—Stick to One Market—May Jewish Holidays—
Purebreds Best for Market.

Get up a gilt-edged reputation.

Repeated failures strengthen prices.

Plumpness is better than color of skin.

Buying eggs to hatch broilers is a dear method.

Home-raised eggs are best for market poultry culture.

Free the legs from scales before marketing the old hens.

W. H. Rudd says the outlook for the capon business is good.

Early maturity for market means a great deal in making up the profits.

It costs about 15 cents per pound—cost of eggs, hatching, feed, etc.—to place a broiler on the market.

A broiler raiser in Hammonton, N. J., finds a good market in New York city for plump Leghorn pullet broilers.

Monday, May 23, to Monday, May 25, being Jewish holidays, choice old hens will be saleable in the markets. All classes of poultry will be in more or less demand.

I. K. Felch, in *Fanciers Monthly*, says the Light Brahmas will grow a broiler to weigh two pounds at eight weeks old. Twenty-two have been produced to weigh 53 7-16 lbs. at two months old; the same 22 weighing 107 lbs. at 100 days of age.

There is money to be made in raising poultry for market, says *Prairie Farmer*, and any one can carry it on successfully if he makes himself acquainted with the details, and applies to it the same systematic, business-like attention that he would apply to any other business.

One great advantage in raising purebred fowls for market, says *Texas Farm and Ranch*, is that their uniformity pleases the customer and makes quick sales. People will pass a dozen coops of mixed chickens without thinking of making a purchase, but when they see a dozen or two in one enclosure, all just alike, all bearing the imprint of careful breeding, they all at once remember that one of them would be nice for breakfast tomorrow.

E. Van Every, in *Fanciers Monthly*, gives the following good advice: In shipping to the city market, select some reliable commission house who has a first-class trade and makes a specialty of poultry and eggs. Do not change about from one house to another, as it is a great advantage as far as possible to dispose of one's product through the same channel. The consignments being known, and the buyers know where to look for them if they have found them satisfactory.

Arthur G. Duston, probably the most extensive broiler raiser in New England, prefers the White Wyandotte to any other breed for broilers. Even for light weights he found the other breeds unsatisfactory. At fifteen weeks of age the Leghorn weighs 1 1-2 pounds each, while the cross of White Wyandottes and Brahmas weighing over five pounds each at the same age. For general purposes, Mr. Duston prefers the White Wyandotte, and considers the cocks excellent for grading up flocks of common fowls. He finds the breed will stand forcing uncommonly well.

Turkey Culture.

Hints on Raising the Young—Pointers on Feeding for Growth and Best Results.

A gobbler will care for from 8 to 10 hens.

In greasing turkeys for lice, use lard or unsalted grease.

At the first signs of a shower, chase the young into shelter.

Keep the young turkeys housed during damp or rainy weather.

Never let the young out in the morning until the dew is off the grass.

For small turkeys, feed, for first week, hard-boiled eggs chopped fine, chopped lettuce and onions, raw or boiled.

It is not the largest turkey that sells soonest, says *Poultry Keeper*, but the fat and plump bird, of medium size, for which an extra price can be obtained at all seasons.

If you can get your young turkeys above six weeks of age, says the *Southern Fancier*, they will have passed the critical period, and you may then look forward to Thanksgiving with juicy anticipations.

Take young turkeys from the nest as soon as they are dry, to prevent them from mashing, wrap them up and keep in a warm place, says a correspondent in *American Agriculturist*. Give no food for a day and night; there is a residuum of yolk to be absorbed and voided. Too early feeding interferes with this process.

Cloud's *Poultry News* gives these pointers: As killing time draws nearer feed oftener. Give a variety. Don't depend on corn alone, and don't expect to make good turkeys with sour, damaged grain. Select the best hens for breeding purposes, and do not sell these nor exchange for poor stock. Don't take everyone's advice on how to grow turkeys. Find out for yourself.

Mrs. Magruder, after first week gives her turkeys curds of buttermilk or clabber, scalded and pressed dry from whey. Sprinkle occasionally with red pepper. Also feed plain corn cake, unsalted, crumbled fine and moistened with a little water or sweet milk; these are the proper foods for young turkeys. Feed four or five times a day, in an earthenware plate or vessel. Turkeys are fastidious as to clean platters and food. Do not give raw meal, dough, buttermilk or sour milk. These produce diarrhoea, and this disease is the mortal foe of the turks.

Geese for Profit.

Hybrids Between Wild and Common Geese Produce Infertile Eggs—Valuable Pointers on Fattening for Market.

Don't tease the gander.

Do not pluck geese the first year.

Spring and summer are best seasons for plucking.

The stubble field, after harvest, will be a valuable range for fattening.

A gander can be mated to from one to four geese, according to vigor.

As geese are sold by the pound, proper fattening is worth considering.

When properly treated and in good order, geese are very easily gotten into prime condition.

Thin geese should be fed corn once a day, put in a trough of water; good grass range; and oats or wheat for the other meals.

A correspondent of *Poultry* says he owns quite a number of hybrids between the wild and common goose, and while they pair and produce abundance of eggs and set on them, these eggs are always infertile. The eggs he states are especially good for pastry and pancakes.

Utility and Beauty combined in my Black Minorcas and Buff Rocks. Prolific layers; large, healthy, vigorous stock; raised on unlimited range. Eggs in season. FRED. E. PILE, Cleveland, Ohio.

I. K. FELCH & SON,

Box K, Natick, Mass.

Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks, and White Wyandottes,

—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—

Standard Points and Egg Records Combined. Enclose stamps for 24 page catalogue.

WHITE P. ROCKS. Eggs \$1.00 per sitting; 3 sittings \$2.25; \$4 per 100. Pure-bred stock. H. L. WIMPENNEY, 2d, Edgartown, Mass.

"Best Liver Pill Made." Parsons' Pills

Positively cure biliousness and sick headache, liver and bowel complaints. They expel all impurities from the blood. Delicate women find relief from using them. Price 25 cts.; five \$1.00. Pamphlet free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston.

It is the custom of many farmers to give their geese nothing but grass before they are put on the stubble fields, says B. White, in *Poultry*; in consequence of this, when first put out they are very thin, but it is a great mistake after the stubble has been cleared to return them to that diet, for they will lose almost as much in weight as they have previously gained. After the corn has been cleared from the stubble fields the geese should be given a feed of corn once a day to keep them in good condition.

The following method in fattening is adopted by an English goose farmer: Geese in good condition should be shut up in a quiet place, shaded from the light, where they cannot see other geese at liberty, and should be kept there from 20 to 25 days. It is beneficial to let them out for about 15 to 30 minutes first thing in the morning and again in the evening before dusk. The meals they get should be nutritious, and a mixture of barley-meal, wheatmeal, a little cornmeal and boiled potatoes given warm twice a day is good. About the last ten or twelve days it is advisable to mix a little finely chopped rough fat with the meal. This has the effect of plumping them up, rendering their flesh much more palatable. A trough of clean water should be supplied to the birds after the evening meal.

EMPIRE STATE BROODERS are best. Cir. free. W. H. CROZIER, Hall's Corners, N. Y.

EGGS. S. C. White and S. C. Brown Leghorn. First quality stock. \$1.00 per 13. A Wooden hen, \$4. W. Habman, Box 3, Altoona, Pa.

AN UNPARALLELED RECORD. At America's greatest show, New York, '98, also at Boston, this season. At the latter show, on two entries of Turkeys, won two 1sts, and \$10 special for best pr. At New York, on four entries, won four 1sts. Eggs for hatching from this stock, 40c. each. Best strains of Pekin, Aylesbury and Muscovy Ducks, Toulouse and African Geese, Ind. Games, L. Brahmas, B. and W. P. Rocks, Wh. and S. L. Wyand., Wh., Brown and Buff Leghorns, Black Minorcas, White and Pearl Guineas. Write for 32-page catalogue, free. Choice Stock for sale. "Agent for Lee's Lice Killer."

D. A. MOUNT, PINE TREE FARM, JAMESBURG, N. J.

THE EGG SECRET

is in the feeding. Our poultry literature, which we send free, to all poultry keepers, tells the secret of profitable feeding.

ADDRESS

FITCH FERTILIZER WORKS, Bay City, Mich.

EGGS FOR HATCHING from Barred Plymouth Rocks that are bred for eggs from year to year. No other breed. \$1 per 15; \$5 per 100. Wm. WATMORE, Lenola (Maple Shade P. O.), N. J.

All for One Dollar!

Profitable Poultry Farming, retail,	-	25 Cents.
A Living From Poultry,	"	25 "
Broilers for Profit,	"	50 "
Farm-Poultry Doctor,	"	50 "
A Few Hens, monthly, one year,	-	25 "
Total,		\$1.75.

By ordering at once will send the above collection for \$1.00. Address,

MICHAEL K. BOYER, Box A, HAMMONTON, (Atlantic Co.,) New Jersey.

WHITE WYANDOTTES. Incubator eggs \$3.00 per 100. Breeding pens \$1.00 per 15. Address, SILAS DEAN, Oak Hill, N. Y.



Pioneer Clover Meal is pure clover hay, ground fine by a new process. We use nothing but pure clover, which is the greatest known egg maker. By the use of our meal, hens will lay all winter. It is not cut clover; there is no waste in its use. Send for free sample and book, giving the endorsements of all the leading poultry editors. Prices, 50 lbs. \$1.00; 100 lbs. \$2.00; 5 lbs. 25 cts., in sacks. Ask your dealer for it.

The Bennett & Millett Co., Gouverneur, N. Y.

A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER,
Hammonton, N. J.

Published Once a Month.

Sample Copy Free.

Price, monthly Three Cents.

By the year, Twenty-Five Cents.

Send all orders to

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.,
PUBLISHERS.

ADVERTISING RATE:

One half cent per agate line for each 1000 copies, as printed monthly. Therefore the rate may vary each issue, as the circulation is increased. This will make the price 5 cents per line for 10,000; and 10 cents a line for 20,000, etc.

About seven ordinary words make one line. There is fourteen lines in each inch space, single column.

Entered at the Post-Office at Boston, Mass., as second-class matter, by I. S. Johnson & Co., Publishers, 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL.

Again comes encouragement from one who has given the advertising columns of A FEW HENS a trial. A. J. Silberstein, proprietor of Hartnue Farm, Framingham, Mass., writes:

"My replies from A FEW HENS are equal in number to those from any other source."

As Mr. Silberstein is a liberal advertiser in all the leading poultry journals, that testimonial means a great deal. It proves that A FEW HENS is business from the word go. To quote from a private letter: "The Johnson-Boyer baby is a pretty lively kid."

* * *

The pleasant month of May is again with us, finding the poultrymen unusually busy in growing stock for market. Even with war clouds hanging over us, the industry is bettering itself almost daily. There is a tendency of prices going up for both eggs and chicken meat, for which the poultrymen rejoice. Those poultrymen who are not called to duty to defend our flag, should work all the harder to increase the production of eggs and meat, for they will be in great demand, which will continue, no doubt, throughout the entire summer.

* * *

Long View Poultry Yards, Hyattsville, Md., is no more. With 15,000 chicks in all stages of growth; with 9,000 eggs in the incubators; with orders coming in almost daily; with everything apparently moving smoothly, and just after George G. Harley's success in winning at the leading shows—the proprietor closed up shop, practically gave things away, and the advertisement of Long View has been removed from the papers. Why, no one seems to know, not even the manager, and yet, that it was not a fault of his, is proved by the recommendation he has from the proprietor, a recommendation that any man can well feel proud of. From what we learn, this sudden step has been a hard blow to the poultry interests in and around Washington.

* * *

"The 'Standard Editors' are now taking to blaggarding the utility men."—A FEW HENS.
"We wonder what the editors are doing who are not up to the Standard."—*Feather*.

It would take too much space to fully answer, Mr. Howard—but in passing, we might say that the editor of A FEW HENS does not pretend to be

"up to the Standard," as his mission is to grow eggs and meat for market. Mr. Howard knows—or he should know by now—that the marketman cannot breed up to the Standard and still have stock that will be king-pin in quality. "Microbes on the liver" is apt to be the verdict of such work. So, in brief, we can answer that there is at least one editor "not up to the Standard," who is breeding poultry for practical purposes. And now what is Mr. Howard doing?

* * *

Each year witnesses the growth of the utility ranks, and fanciers, with an eye to business, are aiming more carefully at the egg record mark than the score card. An object lesson in this is given in the advertising columns of April A FEW HENS. In looking over the advertisements we read such sign-boards as

"Heavy weight,"
"Bred for layers,"
"Bred to lay eggs,"
"Beauty and eggs,"
"Bred for business,"
"Utility and beauty,"
"The greatest layers,"
"Great laying qualities,"
"Utility breeders' fowl,"
"Prolific business birds,"
"47 chicks from 50 eggs,"
"Bred on practical lines,"
"Pure breeds and plenty of eggs,"
"Prolific layers of large brown eggs,"
"190 eggs as an average yearly record,"
"Great layers, large size, vigorous stock,"
"Headquarters for practical business fowls,"
"Average egg production 200 each per year,"
"Noted for big eggs, brown eggs, many eggs."

What does all this change of front mean?—this raising of the Utility banner and lowering of the Score Card flag? It means that the influence of such papers as A FEW HENS and *Farm-Poultry* is being felt. It means that people have come to the understanding that poultry was created for food and not for show. That the demand has grown greater from high egg records—practically from pedigreed stock—than from high scores and grand show winnings. We need fanciers and we want to encourage them, but they will be of very little use to the next generation of poultrymen unless they aim to strengthen the egg records and give us better meat.

* * *

A correspondent, G. S. V. S., Cobleskill, N. Y., writes:

"In February number of A FEW HENS you say that Pen No. 5 contains 30 White Leghorn pullets and one cockerel. Now do you breed from these? Do you consider one cockerel enough for 30 pullets? Please answer in A FEW HENS."

"In *Fanciers' Review*, J. H. Davis writes on the values of inbreeding. Now this article is just contrary to what I have always been told, and also to my own experience. If you believe as I do I wish you would make mention of the fact in your valuable paper, as you did in regard to Mr. Howard's views on utility. I am as thorough a believer in utility as I am a disbeliever in inbreeding."

Until this year we never favored such heavy matings as 30 females to one male, in any breed. But being crowded for room, we were compelled to put 31 fowls in one pen. More as a matter of curiosity than anything else, we set 15 eggs from this pen, and upon receiving 15 chicks—all eggs being fertile—we were more than pleased with the mating. We can safely say that fully 500 eggs have been sold for hatching, from this pen alone, and the poorest report we have had has been 10 chicks from 15 eggs, when shipped a distance—to Detroit, Mich., for instance. But we keep the fowls busy. They must be continually scratching for their feed. Clover hay and green cut bone forms part of their diet. We supply every article they would naturally gather in a range, and we believe we have solved the problem of proper mating for Leghorns, when all other conditions are right. In egg record, these Leghorns have done good

work. During March they gave 457 eggs, an average of about fifteen for each hen.

Regarding inbreeding, we have yet to read the first convincing article in its favor. It is a foe to the utility cause, an enemy of health and profit, and no market poultryman will encourage it. In the fancy, in order to retain the characteristics of the strain, to cater to Standard requirements, inbreeding is resorted to—but then a comparison of Standard-bred and thoroughbred fowls is sufficient to show the evils of close inbreeding. We believe in introducing new blood every year.

* * *

Those journals who are advocating Standard-bred poultry for practical use, do not know what they are talking about. One journal in particular recently published a "convincing" article, in which a certain Plymouth Rock and a certain Buff Cochin breeder were used for example. We wrote a personal letter to both, asking that they give egg records and pointers regarding their stock from a utility standpoint, we agreeing to give such facts prominence in A FEW HENS without cost to them. The Plymouth Rock man answered that he never keeps an egg record but knows his hens are doing "remarkable laying." Then he drifted on to the value of his stock from a score point of view, all of which was of little consequence to us. The Cochin man said he was not paying any attention to eggs—it was color and other points of beauty that demanded his attention. His first aim was, he said, to get his birds as near perfection as possible, and then he would look up the egg question. He admitted that his birds did not do much laying, but "that will be an after consideration."

Now if that is the verdict of two references, what can we expect from the average Standard-bred fowl advocates? Give us thoroughbreds—strictly thoroughbred—and get as near the Standard as you consistently can. But have utility as the foundation, and build on that rock gradually and firmly. No other source of breeding will bring about the desired results. Oh, for more men like I. K. Felch & Son, who breed on practical lines—"Standard points and egg records combined."

* * *

A lady correspondent residing in New Rochelle, N. Y., writes:

"I have been very much interested in your account of the special poultry culture course at the Rhode Island college, and I write to ask if they intend to have another course of the same kind in the near future, and if women would be admitted, for I feel sure there are many women who would be glad to avail themselves of such an opportunity. Could you not use your influence so that women could be admitted to such a class? I am but a novice in poultry culture, but pin my faith to A FEW HENS, for with its help, and 'eternal vigilance' I hope, I should say I intend to succeed."

Another lady from Jamestown, N. Y., writes:

"As the majority of householders cannot attend any poultry class, would it not be agreeable and possible to interview some of the Rhode Island college potentates, and plan a sort of condensed course for your legion of readers on your editorial page? Supposing that to be impossible, why not request them to bulletin the course and charge for the bother?"

A FEW HENS will call the attention of the Rhode Island college officials to these requests. We understand the classes are to be continued so long as their is proper support given to them and certainly women would be admitted. The suggestion the lady from Jamestown makes to bulletin these courses might be good, providing sufficient sales could be guaranteed to make them pay for their getting up. However, A FEW HENS hopes to have Prof. Brigham's reply in next issue.

The *Fanciers' Monthly* says: "Uncle Mike Boyer, editor of A FEW HENS, is the great American condenser of poultry wisdom. He crowds a whole page into a column, and then boils down the column till it makes but a word or a line."

I. W. Tilly, Nebraska, writes: "A FEW HENS is the pure article and I would not be without it."

Frank P. Carrier, Massachusetts, writes: "A FEW HENS is an up-to-date, spicy and interesting monthly."

Ira Ulman, New York, writes: "I find A FEW HENS O. K."

George L. Moreland, Pennsylvania, writes: "I am very well pleased with A FEW HENS. The matter is to the point and ably edited. The Experimental Farm Notes are very interesting, as also are the editorials."

Geo. S. Van Schaick, New York, writes: "A FEW HENS is the greatest poultry paper published today. There are more solid facts in one number than are found in a year's issues of any other paper published."

Pointers on Food and Feeding.

Boiling Grain—Corn a Dear Egg Food—Feeding Grain Exclusively—Nature of Certain Articles of Diet—A Well-Balanced Ration is a Powerful Aid to the Health of Poultry.

Beware of damaged grain.

Kaffir corn is a good wheat substitute.

Grit will not take the place of oyster shell.

Oyster shell will not take the place of grit.

Green cut bone will not take the place of grit.

Watercress is relished by all classes of poultry.

Too much cooked vegetables will produce bowel troubles.

In adding salt to the soft feed, allow an ounce for 100 fowls.

Too much corn will bring on indigestion and liver troubles.

What a pity that wheat, the best poultry grain, is growing so high in price.

The hen is the mill to grind, says a writer, the crop the hopper, and the egg the grist.

"Scientific feeding" is a subject gifted in phraseology, but often woefully lacking in practice.

The well fed pullet is an early layer, providing she has not been too well fed on fattening food.

Too liberal feeding of green bone is apt to produce worms. It should not be fed oftener than twice a week.

Every particle of the egg—yolk, albumen and shell must come from the assimilated food through the blood cells.

In feeding grain, scatter it. Throwing all in one spot means too much for the strong and not enough for the weak.

Once a week char a lot of shelled corn to a crisp and feed to the fowls and they will be receiving one of the best tonics.

M. Reaumer, a French authority, said each fowl will eat a quarter of a pint of grain per day when fed on no other kind of food.

Scientific men tell us that an egg is an ounce and a half of concentrated food, made up of lime, soda, sulphur, iron, phosphorus, magnesia, oil and albumen.

Skim milk, sour milk and butter milk, are all excellent for fowls and chicks. Some people labor under the impression that sour milk is spoiled milk, but in that they are mistaken.

Bran should go into the daily bill of fare, as it is rich in nitrogen, carbon and mineral matter. Beans and peas cooked and thickened with bran, and fed twice a week, make an excellent food for laying hens.

Experimentalists say that peas, beans, wheat, pollard, oatmeal and some other vegetables contain much flesh-forming substance, but it is difficult to say what proportion of them should be used or what quantity given without doing mischief.

There are certain feeds that give warmth and aid respiration, and certain kinds that restore the muscular waste of the matured (or increase the bulk of the growing) animal. If we give only warmth-producing substances the consumers will fail in the increase of bone, muscle, etc., and if we give too much flesh-producing nourishment it goes to waste or becomes injurious.

A writer said the truth in this: "How much to feed a dozen hens per day depends upon how much the boss hen grabs from the timid ones." To find out, then, just what is needed, never throw the grain down in a heap, but broadcast it so that all can have an equal chance. A quart of grain broadcasted should be enough for ten hens.

Mr. Bement, an old-time American writer, found that eight Poland fowls consumed a peck of oats in six days, a peck of barley in seven days, a peck of wheat in ten days, a peck of millet in eight days, and a peck of wheat screenings in seven days. During the experiment the fowls had a few boiled potatoes only in addition.

"Too much soft food induces disease," says the *Fanciers' Review*. To this *Texas Farm and Ranch* rightly replies: So it does, and so also does too much hard food, or too much of anything. The best amount to feed of sound and wholesome food is "plenty"—that means just the right quantity for the purpose in hand; more for fattening fowls for market than for hens on duty.

The science of feeding is one that must be studied carefully if success is desired. To underfeed is as bad as to overfeed. To give carbonaceous food when nitrogenous elements are necessary, and *vice versa*, will do more damage than good. Feed for the object desired and never allow the fowls to become overfat. And with the proper food goes exercising, for without proper muscular movements the digestion will be defective, and no good results can be expected.

In this country, poultrymen generally claim that there is no saving in boiling the food, says *Iowa Homestead*, notwithstanding the increase in bulk, as they say there seems to be a corresponding lessening of its sufficing properties; "that seven pints of boiled oats will be consumed in the same time and by the same number of fowls as four pints of the dry grain." But still we believe there is economy in feeding the boiled grain in fattening, as it has been proved beyond a doubt that the fowls will fatten more readily with the latter.

Avoid too-stimulating food during warmweather. Rather suit the ration for the development of bone and muscle. Corn is too stimulating for summer feeding, says Wisconsin *Farmer*, whether it be whole or cracked, or in a meal. Wheat, oats, bran and oatmeal should be the bulk of summer feeding. Of course green food, bonemeal and charcoal must not be forgotten. Where fowls have a good range over a good pasture or an orchard, a bran mash, to which a part of oatmeal is added, makes a good breakfast—nothing at noon—and wheat, alternated with oats, at night.

White Wyandotte Eggs from the best large, fine, prolific stock. \$1.50 per 13; \$2.50 per 26; \$3.00 per 39. WM. F. STROUD, Merchantville, N. J.

Hunter's Strain White Wyandottes. Seven choice females for sale low. Unrelated male furnished if desired. A. E. Hutchinson, Gilead, Conn.

FARMERS' INCUBATOR. Best and cheapest. 200-egg, \$5.50. Brooder, \$2.50. 90 per cent. guaranteed. Farmers' Incubator Co., McComb, O.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS. Strictly pure bred. Eggs, \$1.00 per 13. Pekin Ducks (Rankin's) Eggs, \$1.00 per 11. Large package plush pieces for patchwork, free with every order. CHARLIE H. HARDEN, McConnellsville, N. Y.

BEAUTY and EGGS

is the combination.

**WHITE WYANDOTTES,
S. C. BLACK MINORCAS.**

Superior stock bred from the best strains. None better. Good hatch guaranteed. Eggs \$1.25 per 15, after April 15. Write for records.

GEO. W. CONABLE, Cortland, N. Y.

REDUCTION.

Don't fail to get my new prices on

WHITE WYANDOTTE EGGS

Before buying.

WM. H. CHILD, Glenside, Pa.

Boiling the grain is a custom among French poulterers. The grain is put in a pan of water and boiled until soft enough to be easily bruised between the fingers. It is claimed that four pints of oats boiled will fill a pint measure seven times, four pints of barley boiled will fill a pint measure ten times, four pints of buckwheat boiled will fill a pint measure fourteen times, four pints of maize (corn) boiled will fill a pint measure fifteen times, four pints of wheat boiled will fill a pint measure ten times, and four pints of rye boiled will fill a pint measure fifteen times.

Corn contains 86 per cent fat and heat elements hence is no egg food. We must not gage economy by cheapness. Corn may be the cheapest ration as far as dollars and cents are concerned, in its market value, but it undoubtedly is a dear egg food, for it cannot produce what is wanted, says Dr. G. M. Twitchell. Farmers have the idea that corn will make eggs, and for proof point to the fact that their hens get nothing else, but they forget to note that their stock are allowed perfect freedom, that they gather much in their foraging trips. Worms, bugs, grass, wheat, oats and what not are found on the daily trips of the feathered tribe. So it is not the corn, but the variety of other feed the hens collect that make eggs, and the former gets the credit. The cheapest egg food then, is that which gives us the most eggs; such a quantity of food too as will be thoroughly digested and assimilated.

A poultry writer in the *Rural New-Yorker* is strongly of the opinion that a well-balanced ration is a powerful aid to the health of poultry. His belief is that it furnishes the vigor necessary to throw off infection. One of the requirements is a certain portion of animal food, which poultry having a large range has no difficulty in getting in the bugs, grasshoppers and insects of various kinds which it captures, but which with closer housing must be supplied in some other way. He cites an instance in his own experience when his supply of meat scraps gave out, and about the same time he failed to secure skim milk with which the morning feed was habitually mixed. The egg yield fell off very sharply; indeed, almost ceased, and it was only a short time before rump broke out in a severe form in all the flocks, of which he had several. His idea is that the food being thrown out of balance, gave the poultry less power to resist disease germs.

75 per ct. Guaranteed By NIAGARA FARM.

White Wyandottes, S. C. W. Leghorns, Light Brahmas, Mammoth Pekin Ducks. Eggs \$1.00 per 13; \$3.00 per 50; \$5.00 per 100.

White Indian Games, White Holland Turkeys, Mammoth Embden Geese. Eggs 25 cents each.

All stock bred for business. If you want money makers give us a trial. Cut Clover \$1.00 per 100 lbs. Reference—M. K. Boyer, editor of A Few Hens.

W. R. CURTISS & CO., Ransomville, N. Y.

☞ Circular free.

INCUBATORS.

Gold and Silver Medals

Blue and Red Ribbons.

Diplomas and Sweepstakes.

Our 1898 catalogue tells you all about the world's greatest Incubators and Brooders. Send for one. All machines warranted.

**PRAIRIE STATE
INCUBATOR CO.,**
HOMER CITY, PA.

Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.

The Art of Prevention—Warts on the Head—Swelled Head—Sneezing—Enteritis—Roup—Bowel Disease—An Excellent Tonic—A New Theory on Feather-Pulling.

The art of prevention:

Shade,
Exercise,
Pure food,
Fresh water,
Variety of diet,
Avoiding draughts,
Regularity in feeding,
Avoiding overfeeding,
Charcoal twice a week,
Avoiding overcrowding,
Cool houses in summer,
Warm houses in winter,
Keeping down the lice,
Whitewashing twice a year,
Green food daily in summer,
Cleaning up droppings daily,
Using plenty of disinfectants,
Doctoring the slight ailments,
Green cut bone twice a week,
Killing off cases of contagion,
Making new nests once a week,
Constant supply of sharp grit,
Scalded cut clover hay in winter,
Separating ailing fowls from well ones,
Not feeding heating food in hot weather,
Plowing up the runs several times a year,
Keeping fowls indoors during bad weather,
Burning sulphur in the houses once a month,
Kerosening nest boxes and roosts once a week,
Separating males from females during molting,
Scalding out drinking vessels at least once a week.

Enteritis is not contagious.

At once remove the mopy, sick birds from the well.

Stale bread soaked in ale is a favorite English stimulant for poultry.

The English *Fanciers' Gazette* advises keeping Epsom salts and sweet oil within reach for cases of emergency.

When failing to wash the face and nostrils of a swelled-head fowl, the virus of the matter poisons the face, causing lumps.

The causes of enteritis generally are stimulating or indigestible food, overfeeding, injuries, constipation or continued diarrhoea and dysentery.

For bowel disease in fowls, during very warm weather, make the bird fast for a day or two, and give a teaspoonful of powdered cinnamon in a pint of milk.

For swelled head bathe the head and face with strong castile soap suds. After wiping dry bathe with a lotion made of one part spirits of turpentine to six parts glycerine, and well rubbed upon the head and face.

Treatment for enteritis consists of giving a small teaspoonful of salad oil every four hours, and a little raw egg whipped with boiled milk, night and morning. Put plenty of bland fluid, such as barley water, within reach of the fowl.

An excellent remedy for warts on the head is to wash with castile soap and warm water. After wiping dry anoint with an ointment made of ten parts sweet oil, one part spirits of turpentine, one part cedar oil, and a half part carbolic acid. Repeat daily for a week.

According to a writer in the *Practical Poultryman*, the following is a sure cure for roup: One ounce goose grease, one-half ounce lard, one-half ounce camphor gum, half teaspoonful black pepper and fifteen drops carbolic acid, made into small pills and given three times a day.

Dr. Neil's roup cure is made as follows: Turpentine, one teaspoonful; coal oil, one teaspoonful; vaseline, one teaspoonful. Melt in a bottle put in warm water, mix thoroughly and apply with a clean feather. Run the feather in the throat and twist it round, then close the beak and draw the feather out, leaving all the ointment in the bird's mouth.

Sneezing belongs to distemper of a cold in the head, and in itself is only a slight ailment. In quite young chicks the trouble is best treated by putting four drops of tincture of aconite in a half pint of drinking water. Use the homeopathic aconite. For older chickens, tie a piece of asafoetida in a piece of muslin and fasten it in the drinking fountain or vessel. Use a piece about the size of a hazelnut.

An excellent tonic and one easily made, is to take two pounds of new cut nails and put them in a gallon jug. Pour over them a half pint of strong vinegar, and as much soft water as will just cover the nails. Let it stand for two days, shaking occasionally so as to rust the nails in every part. Then fill with water to make a gallon. Put about a half cupful daily in about a gallon of drinking water, especially during a change of seasons. This gives a tonic invaluable during molting or in general debility.

Prof. Theobald, in *Board of Agriculture Journal*, Great Britain, says feather eating in poultry is due to a minute parasitic mite at the roots of the feathers. It appears on the fowl about April, and is most prevalent in spring and summer, and is easily found among the white powdered matter at the base of the quill. The fowls of the flock eat the feathers to destroy the mites at their base. Preventive and remedial measures consist first of isolating the affected bird, especially if it be a cock, the disease being contagious. The mites readily yield to treatment of oil of cloves rubbed into the affected area. One part of creosote to thirty of lard or vaseline is still more successful.

Artificial Hatching and Brooding.

Facts to be Remembered in Running Incubators—The Contents of an Egg—Valuable Hints by S. C. Stubbs—Requisites of Success.

For success with incubators remember

Test on seventh day,
Temperature 103 degrees,
Fill lamps every evening,
Cool eggs after fourth day,
Turn eggs after fourth day,
Never cool below 85 degrees,
Keep burners perfectly clean,
Turn eggs every twelve hours,
Do not turn up flame too high,
Keep machines out of sunlight,
Put in a new wick for every hatch,
Keep doors closed during hatching,
Be sure the incubator is standing level,
Discontinue cooling after eighteenth day,
Discontinue turning after eighteenth day,
Add moisture only when air cell is too large,
Don't let temperature run down during hatching.

"Hands off" while the eggs are hatching.

Make the chicks exercise in the brooders.

It is difficult to dry down the eggs in a damp cellar.

Moisture pans in incubators should be above the eggs.

Hen eggs are more readily dried down than duck eggs.

Two or three tests of the eggs should be made during the hatch.

Edwin Snelgrove, 130 Fulton St., N. Y. Prize Winning Blue Andalusians and Light Brahmas.

JAMES W. SMITH, Perkiomenville, Pa. Breeder of sixteen leading varieties of Poultry. Eggs \$1.00 per 15; \$3.00 per 60. Catalogue Free.

CUT CLOVER in sacks. \$1.00 for 100 pounds. L. G. QUIRIN, Tioga Center, N. Y.

White Wonders. Utility breeders' fowl. Eggs \$2 per set; 3 sets, \$5. A. L. Merrill, Auburn, Me.

WHITE WYANDOTTES. Great layers; Large size; Vigorous stock; Some of them non setters. At Hartford, Jan., '98, entered seven birds. They won 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th. Eggs \$2 per 13; \$5 per 39. W. H. SHUTE, Middletown, Conn.

EGGS from B. P. Rocks and White Wyandottes. Bred for layers. F. E. Bancroft, Groveland, N. Y.

CUT CLOVER HAY \$2.00 per 100 pounds. 50 pounds, \$1.10. Best on the market. Send for circular. WOODHID FARM, Fox Chase, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE BEST CHICKENS TO Raise for Profit are

The Old Oak "Light Brahmas."

They are bred only by me and are noted for big eggs, brown eggs and many eggs. Will sell only a limited number of sittings, so if you wish to procure eggs from this stock, you will kindly send in your orders early. No stock for sale. Eggs \$1 per 13. Kindly give plain shipping directions.

C. H. HERMANN, Govaustown, Md.

Lack of exercise is a common cause of heavy loss in artificial brooding.

Ventilation is supplied to furnish oxygen and to evaporate a certain amount of the contents of the egg.

S. C. Stubbs says he has found that it requires a higher average temperature, by about one-half a degree, when the eggs are cooled then when they are not.

S. C. Stubbs, in *American Poultry Journal*, says that while he cannot find a plausible explanation why eggs should be cooled, experiments he has made have proved that cooling makes the chicks stronger and the eggs hatch better.

Dry quarters, thoroughly cooked food, comfortable heat (not too high nor too low) regularity in feeding, cleanliness and good light, are the requisites that must not be forgotten. They, with exercise, will make good broilers and sound chicks.

L. B. B., Ohio, will find that Leghorn eggs dry down more readily than those from Asiatic or American varieties and, consequently, more moisture will be needed towards the close of the hatch. Study the air cells of the eggs; when they become too large add moisture.

S. C. Stubbs, in *American Poultry Journal*, says: The contents of an egg is largely water (about 74 per cent) and not nearly all of this is required for the development of the chick. Nature, in this as in everything else, is prodigal, counting on outside influences to dissipate the surplus. Unless this excess of water is evaporated from the egg, the chick will at the time of hatching have great difficulty in pipping the shell, owing to its being larger than normal, and it will be unable to turn in the shell and break with its bill the complete circle that will enable it to come out. On the other hand, however, the egg must not be evaporated down too much, as the chicks will then be undersized, and the membranes may become so dry before the time for hatching as to cause its death.

ONTARIO FARM. Our fowls won 10 premiums (4 firsts) on 9 entries at Rochester, Jan., 1898. Eggs from S. C. White, S. C. Brown and S. C. Buff Leghorns and White Wyandottes, \$1.00 a sitting. White China goose eggs, \$1.00 per 5. Pekin duck eggs, \$1.00 per 15. Circular.

GEO. HYDE, Appleton, N. Y.

WHITE WYANDOTTES.

Prolific business birds. Standard points. Eggs after April 15th, \$1 per sitting; \$5 per 100. Also a few chicks now. Wm. F. Stroud, Merchantville, N. J.

Tilton's Power Job Print, NORTHWOOD RIDGE, N. H.

100 Envelopes, 100 Note Heads, 100 Tags, sent post-paid, for \$1.40. One M. of each by freight, for \$5.00. Send for prices on other work.



It Destroys Vermin on Animals.

Especially recommended to poultry keepers for destroying that pest of the poultry house, Lice. It also prevents the breeding of vermin where freely used. Ten lbs. \$1.00. E. WHITNEY & Co., Natick, Mass.

Rhode Island Reds

are unequaled for beauty and utility. Hardy, great layers, and fine poultry. Eggs \$1.00 per 13; \$2.00 per 30. A. E. CUMMINGS, Hudson, N. H.

FOR SALE. Eggs from high scoring Cornish Indian Games and Barred Plymouth Rocks; also S. C. Brown Leghorns. All scoring from 90 to 94 points. Settings Cornish Indian Games, \$2.00 per 13; Barred Plymouth Rocks, \$1.50 per 13; S. C. Brown Leghorns, \$1.00 per 13. Three high scoring Ind. Game c'k'ls. for sale. Address all orders to CHAS. O. BARNES, 223 Normal Street, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Sitting Hens and Little Chicks.

Hints on Running Nature's Incubator and Brooder—Pointers on Gapes.

Keep on hatching.

Fussy hens are careless mothers.

Give water to drink from the start.

Broody hens seem scarce this spring.

Clean out the chick houses at least once a week.

A mild winter means a strengthened army of lice.

After this month set the hens on eggs for market chickens.

Whole corn, sharp grit and fresh water is the best diet for sitting hens.

Chicks confined to changeable runs, should be removed to fresh ground every week or two.

Take the hen away from her young when she seems disposed to neglect or abuse them.

W. A. Crosby says the temperature of the eggs under the sitting hens should be 104 degrees.

Whitney's Carbolate of Lime is both a disinfectant and vermin destroyer. We use it on sitting hens and in the houses.

Mrs. May Taylor, in *Fanciers' Review*, advises putting a moth ball 24 hours under the hen before placing eggs under her.

Chicks very often pick the feet of their mother hen until they are sore. If vaseline is rubbed on the sore spots the chicks will stop this cruelty.

Mrs. G. F. O., New York, writes: "There is one thing to be said in favor of the despised hen, she never gets up at midnight in January to study a thermostat."

A correspondent in *American Agriculturist* says newly hatched chickens should never be fed with cornmeal, even though it is scalded. A very good feed for the first two or three weeks is crackers or stale bread softened in hot water or milk. They should be fed at least four times a day.

As soon as a chick is noticed with signs of gapes—stretching its neck and gaping—the *Baltimore Sun* advises giving a piece of asafoetida the size of a kernel of wheat. Generally this will effect a cure, especially if it has been given after the first indication of the trouble is observed. It may take a second dose to accomplish a cure, where the worms have become well established.

The actual cause or source of the gape worm is yet a mooted question, says G. O. Brown. It is, however, generally believed that the earth worm—the angle worm—has something to do with causing the trouble. One of the reasons advanced for the theory is the fact that gapes are much more prevalent during rainy seasons than dry ones, and that gapes rarely appear on sandy or gravelly soils. In the sandy or gravelly soils angle worms are rarely found. This gives some strength in the belief that the angle worm idea is really something more than mere theory. There have been instances, however, where chicks have had the gapes where it was very evident ground worms did not exist and where the surroundings had been abnormally dry. Under such circumstances it is claimed that gapes are caused by a species of louse.

Notes in Passing.

News in the Market Poultry World—Hints that May be of Value—Choice Paragraphs from Our Exchanges.

Don't neglect your work for patriotism.

Strong fertility is generally reported this season. And this will eventually wipe out *Spanish* poultry.

A poorly bred thoroughbred is worse than a scrub.

Scrub treatment will make scrubs of thoroughbreds.

War times will give the market poultry business a boom.

As poultrymen are becoming wiser, the business is paying better.

J. D. Tillinghast says the total value of eggs and poultry imported last year was \$20,000,000.

A FEW HENS extends sympathies to Editor Richards, of *Western Poultry Journal*, in the loss of a faithful wife.

Walter P. Laird, late manager of the Morgan Duck Ranch, Riverton, Va., has accepted a similar position at Norfolk, Va.

The *Fanciers' Review* states a fact in the following: Bottom ventilation always for poultry houses. It is the only sensible and scientific method there is. Never use top ventilators.

The *Southern Fancier* says copperas scattered in every crevice and hole in which a rat is likely to go, will drive out both rats and mice. A FEW HENS would like its readers to try this and report.

To keep tally of eggs used in the family, says *Farm Journal*, hang a big figured calendar up over the cook table, with a pencil tied to it, and every time eggs are used mark down the number in the correct date.

Success in poultry culture is no haphazard affair, says G. O. Brown, but is secured only by regular methods, and the closer the application and more careful and earnest the effort, the greater becomes the success.

"As warm weather approaches, it will be well to clean the poultry house oftener and keep the lice down," says *Garden and Poultry*. A FEW HENS goes one better. It preaches and practices cleaning up the droppings every morning.

To make a good and at the same time cheap disinfectant, says *Southern Fancier*, dissolve in five gallons of water about three pounds of copperas, to which add one pint of crude carbolic acid. Use a common watering pot and sprinkle the house and yard occasionally with this mixture.

The *Mirror and Farmer* says no one would keep a scrub cow if he could procure a Jersey, nor

would he buy a dry cow when he could get one in full flow of milk; but an individual will go on the market to buy a hundred hens, and buy any and all sorts—old, young, overfat hens, lousy hens, hens from yards that have been contaminated with cholera, roup and other diseases—and expect as much success as the man who has been more careful.

"It may seem strange to some that I write so much about market poultry in a strictly fanciers' paper, but friends that is just where it is needed," writes Mrs. May Taylor, in *Fanciers' Review*. "If some of the flocks, I believe I am safe in saying nearly all, were culled much closer than they are and the cullings sent to market, it would greatly benefit the fancy, and if some of the first prize winners had been shipped neatly packed in a barrel, instead of posing as models before our fraternity, many of us would have just cause for rejoicing."

3 BUSINESS BREEDS. B. Lang, W. Wy., Barred P. Rocks. Thoroughbred stock. Eggs \$1.00—13; \$1.50—26; \$4.00—100. "Few Hens" one year free with each order. B. Lang, c'k'ls. \$2. Write for description. S. W. Johnson, Deering Centre, Me.

The GREATEST of LAYERS and New York Winners.

Eggs only \$1.00 per set; seventy-five eggs for \$5.00. Barred and White Rocks, White Wyandottes, Rose and S. C. Brown Leghorns, S. C. White Leghorns, Bl. Minorcas, Bl. Langshans, Big Pekin Ducks, Lt. Brahmas, Buff Leghorns. Eggs \$1.50 per set. W. W. KULP, Pottstown, Pa.

Bargains in Breeding Ducks.

To make room for young stock, will sell part of our breeders at \$1.50 each, or four for \$5.00. Must be taken at once. All of them are good layers.

MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hammonton, N. J.



EUREKA NEST BOX

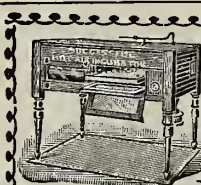
It tells you Which Hens Lay. It is Easy to Build.

From Cornell Experiment Station, Ithaca, N. Y., Jan. 27, 1898.—The idea of your Eureka Nest Box seems to be a very good one. Yours truly, H. H. WING.

Prof. Samuel Cushman, formerly of R. I. Agricultural Experiment Station, says: "I certainly think your nest box is the most practical and feasible of anything I have seen."

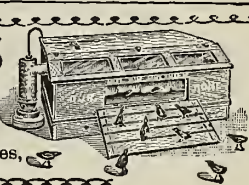
I SELL THE PLANS.

HART NEST YARDS, Framingham, Mass.



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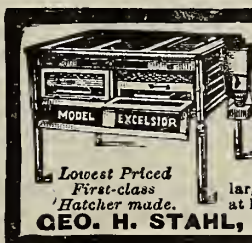


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The only Practical Brooder on the market for outdoor and indoor use. Can be used in the fiercest snow storm outdoors equally as well as indoors. Beware of brooders having double floors and safety compartments, as we hold the exclusive patents on this style of brooder, and will prosecute all infringements. Top heat and three feet square. Send for catalogue. 100 chick size \$5.00.

J. A. BENNETT & SONS, Gouverneur, N. Y.



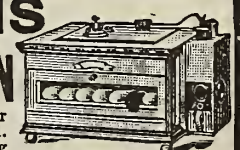
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Most efficient small incubator ever invented. Perfect in every detail. Just the thing for poultry raising on a small scale, 28 egg capacity. Catalogue free.



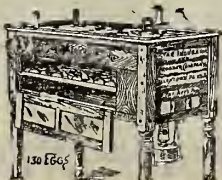
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Perfect in Regulation, Ventilation and Radiation.

Catalogue Free.

STAR INCUBATOR and BROODER CO., Bound Brook, N. J.



Notes in Passing—Continued.

Lookout for crows.

Getting the Leghorn down to bantam size is ruining her egg record.

Many a nervous disposition has been cured by the care of a flock of poultry.

"A safe cat among chicks, says the Baltimore Sun, is a nine times dead cat."

The shiftless poultryman will put off until tomorrow what he should do today.

Love lightens labor—a love for the poultry will make the work all the more easy.

The best crosses on record for market poultry, use the Brahma as the foundation.

Better let the wife earn pin money with poultry, than to take in washing or sewing.

Starting a poultry farm with dunghills is a "penny wise and pound foolish" practice.

Growing an outlandish white face crippled the Black Spanish—and today it is seldom seen.

No breed can outclass the Wyandottes or Plymouth Rocks for the rich golden colored skin.

Almost annually we note the Cochin growing more to a bag of feathers than of practical worth.

"Bad luck" may be a penalty for mismanagement. Investigate before you begin to complain.

Many a fine flock of fowls have been crowded out of their quarters by the attack of an army of lice.

The demand for eggs for hatching from strictly utility fowls has been greater this year than ever before.

If you have nothing but dunghills on the farm, kill off the roosters and grade up the flock with thoroughbreds.

It is too late now to buy eggs for hatching. Better wait until fall and get a breeding pen of pullets and a cockerel.

Give a woman the proper facilities and she will make a success of the poultry business while men around her are failing.

The man who undertakes poultry farming simply for "the money that is in it," is apt to break his neck in the attempt.

Whatever you do, do right. "Makeshift" invites trouble. Things done in a haphazard way opens the door for failure.

A sun bath is nature's tonic for both old and young. But too much of it—especially if the sun is very hot, will cause disease.

If you have been so occupied that you could not do it before, take the first rainy day for a general overhauling of the poultry house.

The Utah Experiment Station says they have found that April hatched Leghorns give better results than those hatched in May.

"Procrastination is the thief of time" is an old proverb, but it is worth remembering in performing our duties about the poultry yard.

Can any one answer why the Plymouth Rocks and Silver Wyandottes are so inbred until they become an easy prey to vertigo? It is a fact, nevertheless.

"Well-cared for, a man can make a good living with hens," says Iowa *Homestead*. "There is no fortune in their keeping, but there is a good steady occupation."

Do not be misled by the assertion that hens are profitable for four or more years. After the second year, all practical poultrymen will tell you the hen's usefulness rapidly declines.

The Wisconsin *Farmer* asks: How many poultrymen are like the Arkansaw traveler—when it rained it was too wet to repair the leak in the roof, and when it did not rain it was not necessary?

J. H. Drevenstedt has purchased all the stock of the *American Fancier*, and will in future be sole proprietor. There is no better poultry writer in the country and A FEW HENS wishes Mr. Drevenstedt the best of success.

W. Cook, of England, says: "It is utility that the keeper of farm poultry has in view. His standard is, or should be, one made up of table qualities, laying powers and constitutional hardiness. He may attach more or less weight to table qualities or laying powers, according to circumstances, but both must always be kept in view."

Every now and then we are told of a good hatch made by a hen which stole her nest in the woods, or some other hidden spot. Iowa *Homestead* advances this theory for it: It is all due to the fact that one hen alone laid those eggs, and of course they must be uniform in stamina. Hens that steal their nests are, as a rule, rugged, and have their liberty. Being in good health the eggs are more strongly fertilized, and a good hatch is the result. Now we never hear of a hen stealing her nest and not making a hatch at all. Yet we know from personal experience that such is a fact. We have kept close watch on several, and, although they sat on the eggs a week longer than necessary, we found, upon opening the eggs, the same causes as we find in our henneries—infertile or weak germs.

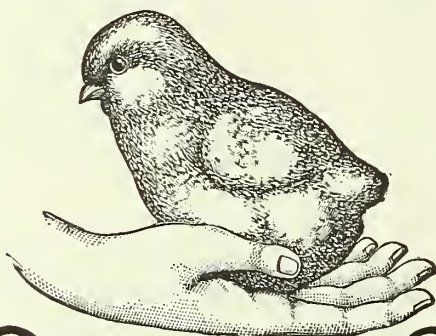
Light Brahma Eggs, \$2.00 for 15; \$3.00 for 30. Five Acre Poultry Farm, Cheviot-on-Hudson, N. Y.

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If it's Buggies, Harness, Saddles, Bicycles, Sewing Machines, Feed Cookers, Cider Presses, Spray Pumps, Poultry Supplies or anything else, we can supply it direct from the factory. No matter what it is, or where it is made, we can supply it and save you money too. Try us. Write for our illustrated catalogue, circulars, etc.

Frank B. Barkley Mfg. Co. 835 Old Colony, Chicago, Illinois.

HATCH Strong



CHICKENS

Then keep them healthy and growing if you want the Pullets to lay when five months old. When hens lay eggs for hatching mix in their food every other day

Sheridan's Powder.

It strengthens the hens; makes the rooster more vigorous; finally you get more fertile eggs and strong healthy chickens. Persons who succeed best in keeping Poultry, commence with little chicks; giving twice a week an even teaspoonful of Sheridan's Condition Powder mixed with each quart of food, gradually increasing the dose. Sold by druggists, grocers, feed dealers or by mail. Single pack 25 cts. Large can \$1.20. Six cans, \$5. Exp. paid L. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

People We Know.

Facts and News Gleaned Especially for A FEW HENS About People We Know.

The New England Fancier has resumed its old size and is otherwise greatly improved.

Wm. H. Child, Glenside, Pa., is advertising a reduction in the price of his White Wyandotte eggs. It is not too late to set eggs of this breed, and Mr. Child has strictly first-class stock.

Philander Williams endorses the Eureka Nest Box, as advertised in A FEW HENS. He writes: "I wish to say that I am much more pleased with it than I expected to be. It works like a charm and fills a long felt want. Every careful breeder should have them."

We understand there are inferior imitations of Pioneer Clover Meal placed upon the market, claiming that their article is endorsed by all the leading poultry editors. The only meal the editors have recommended is that manufactured and sold by the Bennett & Millett Co., Gouverneur, N. Y.

A FEW HENS acknowledges a basket of eggs from W. W. Kulp, Pottstown, Pa., showing the size and color of the product of his Barred and White Plymouth Rocks, Single Comb Brown and Rose Comb Brown and Buff Leghorns. We never saw better sized eggs from the above named breeds, the Buff Leghorn eggs especially being large. We have also had the pleasure of reading some correspondence which Mr. Kulp has had from his customers. One man reports 15 chicks from 15 eggs; another that the Leghorn eggs shipped were the largest and finest he ever saw; and a number write that they are more than pleased with the fine birds shipped, and also with the honest and prompt attention given.

BUYING DIRECT. People living in the country or in isolated towns can get the benefit of manufacturer's prices if they so desire. Agents in out-of-town districts do not have as much trade as the factories get, and in order to make a living they must charge a larger margin of profit. In addition to this they do not carry a complete stock of any manufacturer's goods, and having but a few articles to select from the buyer does not get as well suited. The Frank B. Barkley Manufacturing Co., Old Colony Building, Chicago, are conducting a mail order business and can give the buyer manufacturer's prices on buggies, harness, saddles, bicycles, sewing machines, poultry supplies or anything else the farmer may want. They have no big rents to pay, for the goods are shipped direct from the manufacturer; they can save you money. They have issued a handsome illustrated catalogue for the benefit of their customers. It will pay you to write for it and get a copy.

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